

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - ITALIAN AFFINITY RULES

REF: (A) STATE 254628; (B) LAASE-ORTMAN NOV 14 TELECON

1. ITALY ALMOST ALONE AMONG EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, DOES NOT RPT NOT PERMIT SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS. BOTH SCHEDULED AND SUPPLEMENTAL CARRIER REPS, AS WELL AS TRAVEL AGENTS, HAVE APPROACHED EMBASSY INDICATING INCREASING DIFFICULTY IN MAINTAINING LEGITIMATE SINGLE AFFINITY GROUPS OF AS MANY AS 250 PERSON, WHICH IS CAPACITY OF STRETCH DC-8S USED BY MOST SUPPLEMENTAL CARRIERS. PROBLEMS EVEN MORE SEVERE FOR WIDE-BODIED AIRCRAFT. THESE DIFFICULTIES APPARENTLY REFLECT CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION WHICH HAS REPORTEDLY REDUCED NUMBER OF POTENTIAL ONE-WEEK CHARTER CUSTOMERS.

2. GIVEN GOI AFFINITY POLICY, BACKED BY OCCASIONAL SEVERE CHECKS OF US ORIGIN AFFINITY GROUPS BY CIVILAVIA, US CARRIERS ARE REPORTEDLY RELUCTANT TO COMMIT AIRCRAFT TO US-ITALY AFFINITY CHARTER MARKET NEXT YEAR, FEARING POSSIBILITY OF LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION OR NONAPPROVAL BY CIVILAVIA FOR ALLEGED FAILURE OBSERVE GOI AFFINITY RULES.

3. EMBASSY THEREFORE PLANS APPROACH TO MINISTRIES TRANSPORT AND TOURISM IN NEAR FUTURE REQUESTING MODIFICATION GOI CHARTER

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POLICY TO PERMIT SPLIT AFFINITY GROUPS. SUCH POLICY CHANGE BY GOI

WOULD ENABLE US CARRIERS COMPETE MORE EFFECTIVELY IN US-ITALIAN AFFINITY CHARTER MARKET. (AT PRESENT ALITALIA AFFINITY CHARTERS ARE NOT RPT NOT WELL POLICED BY CIVILAVIA TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH SINGLE AFFINITY RULE, WHILE US CARRIERS' DEPARTURES HAVE BEEN DELAYED FOR HOURS WHILE EACH PASSENGER CAREFULLY CHECKED BY CIVILAVIA

4. EMBASSY AWARE THAT CAB INTENDS ABOLISH AFFINITY CHARTERS AFTER 1975 SEASON. BUT USG PRESENTLY PERMITS SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS AND EMBASSY SEES NO REASON WHY US CARRIERS SHOULD BE DISADVANTAGED IN US-ITALY AFFINITY CHARTER MARKET DURING 1975.

5. MINISTRY TOURISM SUPPORTS CHANGE PERMITTING SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS,

WHILE CIVILAVIA'S CURRENT ATTITUDE REFLECTS ALITALIAN POLICY. WITH ACTIVE EMBASSY ROLE, THERE IS CHANCE THAT MINISTRY TRANSPORT CAN BE PERSUADED MODIFY AFFINITY CHARTER POLICY TO PERMIT SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS. VOLPE

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